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**MITIGATION OF MILITARY PUNISHMENT.**—Nothing shows more clearly the progress of public sentiment respecting war, than the treatment of military offenders, those who violate the laws of war. "A court martial at Memphis, Tenn., lately convicted three soldiers of desertion, and sentenced them to have their heads shaven, their left hips tattooed with the letter D (signifying deserter), and to be dishonorably discharged from the United States service. This sentence was executed. In the morning the barber of the battalion performed the job of shaving the hair from their heads, leaving them as bare as a clean-shaven face. Then their pantaloons were taken off, and the letter D stamped with India ink upon their hips. In the afternoon, at dress parade, the three men were brought out, and marched at the head of the whole command through several of the prominent streets of the city, after which they were formally dismissed, and ordered to leave the garrison, which they did with an air of deep shame and mortification." Fifty or seventy years ago, these men, at least in Europe, would have been shot at once, or brutally lashed by the cat-o'-nine-tails within an inch of their life. The Peace Reform, if it has done nothing else, has paid for itself ten times over just by mitigating the brutalities of war.

**ELECTION EXPENSES IN ENGLAND.**—Here are specimens as given by Mr. Low, M.P., in 1866:—"I will take the southern division of Derbyshire. The election cost £8500, and this is the cheapest I shall read. The northern division of Durham cost £14,620, and the southern division £11,000. South Essex cost £19,000, and North Essex £16,000. West Kent cost £12,000; South Lancashire, £17,000; South Shropshire, £12,000; North Staffordshire, £14,000; North Warwickshire, £10,000; South Warwickshire, £13,000; North Wiltshire, £13,000; South Wiltshire, £12,000, and the North Riding of Yorkshire, £27,000. Now, I ask the House how it is possible that the institutions of this country can endure if this kind of thing is to go on and increase."

#### SUMMARY OF NEWS.

**ENGLAND.**—The new Parliament was formally opened Feb. 16th by royal commission; but nothing of consequence was done beyond its organization. The probability that the treaty negotiated for the settlement of our pending dispute with England, would be rejected by our Senate, seems to have been received in much better temper by the English than could have been expected. There seems no fear on either side that the difficulty will ever lead to war. The British government had announced its intention to release from imprisonment forty-five Fenians who had been convicted of treason.

**FRANCE.**—It seems that the French Government continues its prohibition of public meetings on the ground of the abuse of the right by the people. Such a meeting near Paris was dispersed by the authorities. Strong proofs of how little real freedom of opinion, discussion or action is allowed in France.—The Chinese embassy under Mr. Burlingame met from the French Government a very cordial welcome, both from the French Minister and from the Emperor. On both occasions all the courtesies usually extended to diplomatic representatives of high rank were shown to them. The Emperor expressed satisfaction at the step taken by China in opening diplomatic relations with other nations, and a willingness to co-operate with its representatives. The tone of the French press toward the embassy is friendly.

**TURKEY AND GREECE.**—The Conference at Paris held its final meeting Feb. 18th, to receive the answer to its protocol from the Greek Government. The Turkish Government had already given its assent; and the Greek King, in spite of popular opinion against the measure, had formed a new cabinet which enabled him to accept the propositions of the Conference. Whereupon a resolution was adopted declaring that, Greece having yielded, the great Powers reserve to themselves the right to protect the lives, property and interests of Christian subjects of Turkey. The protocol was signed by the representatives of the Powers, and the Conference dissolved.

**SPAIN.**—seems to be passing through its revolution with much better prospects than had been expected. The Constituent Cortes assembled Feb. 12th, and was opened by Serrano, the President of the Provisional Ministry, with a congratulatory address, in which he said: "The nations of Europe, in attaining a higher degree of civilization, threw off the traditional bonds which fettered the public mind. Spain for a long time delayed following the example of her neighbors." She now calls on her representatives to construct a new edifice. The extravagance of former administrations has disorganized and embarrassed the finances of the nation. The Cortes is relied upon to remedy this by economical reforms and changes in administration, by wise legislation in regard to the public debt, and by economizing the expenses of the army and navy. The fundamental principles of radical Liberalism which have been adopted in relation to religion, the press and education, by the provisional government, must now be consolidated by the Cortes." Riverro was elected President of the Cortes. There had been a great demonstration in Madrid by the Republican party in favor of a separation between Church and State. A deputation had waited on the Ministers, and requested them to issue a decree declaring the absolute separation of the two powers; and their demands were indorsed by an immense crowd gathering in the streets, and clamoring for religious liberty. The Ministers replied, that they would refer the whole subject to the Constituent Cortes.

**AUSTRIA.**—There seems to be in most parts of Europe a sure though too slow a progress in favor of popular rights by her governments. Most of them are gradually making changes in favor of the people. Even in Austria "the Reichsrath begins the year with new reforms, having passed a bill allowing trial by jury for all press offences. The Reichsrath is now one of the most liberal representative assemblies of Europe." Such is the drift of nearly all European governments; and if they wisely persist in this work, they will forestall revolution by securing the people's rights by peaceful expedients.

**PERSIA.**—The war threatened for a time between Persia and Turkey seems to have been averted.

**MEXICO.**—is at her old tricks of chronic revolution. Her petty generals are issuing their pronunciamientos, one in favor of Gen. Negreto, another of Gen. Lapote, and a third of Gen. Santa Anna. Indeed, most of the popular governments that arose out of the old Spanish provinces on this continent, have become in fact despotisms in the hands of military desperadoes.

**CUBA.**—It is impossible to ascertain the real condition and prospects of the conflict now in progress on this island between the Spanish authorities and the revolutionists. Reports continue unreliable and conflicting; but it is clear that the people are suffering terribly from the present condition of affairs, and not likely very soon to escape from their present evils.